

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 NIC-01

EUR-25 /189 W

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R 141200Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2108

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 10691

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, VE

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
DECEMBER 12, 1973

REF: CARACAS 10599 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT-ELECT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, WASTING NO TIME
IN PRESENTING HIS THOUGHTS ON VARIOUS POLICY MATTERS TO VENEZUELAN
PEOPLE, HELD ANOTHER FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 12, 1973,
SPANISH TEXT OF WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT.
COMMENTS ON PETROLEUM WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. AMONG OTHER
MATTERS CAP COMPLIMENTED ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR ROLE IN
ELECTORAL/PROCESS, REPEATED THAT IT IS CUBA'S RESPONSIBILITY
TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS AND THAT
DECISION MUST BE INTER-AMERICAN IN NATURE, PROPOSED JOINT ACTION
BY COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA TO CONTROL ENTRY OF "INDOCUMENTADOS"
INTO VENEZUELA, EXPRESSED HOPE FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRACY
IN CHILE, AND REITERATED PLEDGE NOT TO ENGAGE IN CONFRONTATION WITH
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ANY POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN VENEZUELA INCLUDING THE LEFT.

END SUMMARY.

1. CONGRATULATIONS TO ARMED FORCES: CAP PRAISED MILITARY FOR ROLE THEY PLAYED IN ELECTORAL PROCESS AND FOR DEMONSTRATION GIVEN TO WORLD OF VENEZUELAN/DEMOCRATIC SUFFRAGE. HE NOTED THAT IN LATIN AMERICAN WORLD, WHERE VIABILITY OF DEMOCRACY IS IN QUESTION, VENEZUELAN MILITARY IS POINTING WAY FOR OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. RELATIONS WITH CUBA. CAP SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT PLAN CALDERA'S GOVERNMENT HAS CONCERNING THIS MATTER BUT REPEATED THAT PROBLEM IS NOT THAT OF VENEZUELA WITH CUBA BUT OF CUBA WITH VENEZUELA BECAUSE OF DAMAGE SUFFERED BY VENEZUELA FROM CUBAN SUBVERSION. HE SAID REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS MUST BE PRODUCT OF INTER-AMERICAN CONSULTATION BECAUSE IT WAS VENEZUELA WHICH ASKED LATIN AMERICA FOR SUPPORT AT TIME OF INSURGENCY. HE PLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE HOSTILE TOWARD ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND WILL FAVOR NORMAL REALTIONS AMONG ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS "RADICAL REFORM/ OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, WHICH HE CALLED"OUTDATED".

3. COLOMBIAN "INDOCUMENTADOS". CAP SAID PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING FROM COLOMBIA IS BASICALLY AN ECONOMIC MATTER IN WHICH NEITHER PEOPLE NOR GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA ARE AT FAULT. HE SAID THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE COMPLETELY TO CLOSE BORDER TO SUCH ILLEGAL ENTRY BECAUSE OF THE NORMAL FRONTIER INTEREACTION THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE ECONOMIC PRESSURES WHICH CAUSE THE "INDOCUMENTADOS"PROBLEM. ON THE OTHER HAND HE ACKNOWLEDGED THATTHIS TRAFFIC IS DAMAGING TO VENEZUELA AND SAID BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD JOIN IN A "PLAN OF FRONTIER INTEGRATION" TO DEVELOP FRONTIER AREAS FOR CONTROL OF ILLEGAL ENTRY.

4. RELATIONS WITH CHILE. CAP SAID HE HAS GREAT INTEREST IN HOW RELATIONS WITH CHILE ARE DEVELOPED AND RECALLED TRADITIONAL FRIENDLYTIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT NOT ONLY BILATERALLY BUT IN MULTILATERAL CONTEXT OF ANDEAN PACT CORDIAL RELATIONS WILL BE MAINTAINED. HE SAID THAT PRESENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN CHILE ARE PAINFUL FOR VENEZUELA BUT GIVEN TRADITIONAL CHILEAN ABILITY TO LIVE WITHIN A DEMOCRATIS SYSTEM HE HOPES TO SEE POLITICAL LIBERTY REESTABLISHED THERE. LATER IN PRESS CONFERENCE HE CONTRASTEDPEACEFUL CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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VENEZUELA WITH WHAT HE CALLED "THE CHILEAN TRAGEDY".

5. RELATIONS WITH MAS AND THE LEFT. CAP HAD FAVORABLE COMMENT ON CONDUCT OF MOVEMENT TO SOCIALISM (MAS) DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HE SAID VENEZUELA HAS LEARNED A LESSON FROM THE INSURGENCY OF THE PAST AND HE PLEDGED TO RESPECT AND MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH MAS AND ALL VENEZUELAN POLITICAL GROUPS.

6. PARTIAL ENGLISH TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE IS IN FBIS PANAMA
PICKUPS DTG 122020Z, 122250Z AND 122245Z DEC. 73.
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